



Spring 2021 Newsletter

The Foothills Food Bank — A Source of Hope and Help



This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to Optimism and Improvements.

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” – Leo Tolstoy



Leigh Zydonik
Executive Director

Spring is in the air and the FFB is taking this season of new beginnings and growth to heart. You may have noticed some reorganizing and spring cleaning happening as you walk through the facility. A big shout out to all our volunteers who have been hard at work organizing and finding recipients and partner agencies to accept the overabundance of household goods we have collected. The back room is now being repurposed as a volunteer and training center.

Our staff and volunteers are sporting a fresh fun look as well, with new FFB logo wear. Thank you, Julie Writz, for taking on the project of ordering shirts, hats, aprons, and masks that allow us to display the FFB badge with pride!

You will continue to see upgrades and enhancements to our safety, security, and operating procedures as we plan and prepare to reopen for our clients. We additionally look forward to taking on new projects to expand our services and positive impact in our community.

We are so appreciative of all who have given their time, talent, and treasure during these trying times to help our neighbors in need. Thank you! We are looking forward to better times ahead!

With appreciation,

Leigh Zydonik





Understanding Our Mission

Mission

The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center provides food, referral information and financial assistance to individuals and families in need within our service area.

Hours of Operation

Cave Creek:

Monday thru Friday – 9AM to noon
Tuesday and Thursday evenings –
5:30PM to 7:00PM

Black Canyon City:

Tuesday and Thursday – 8AM to 11AM

Address

Cave Creek:

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Black Canyon City:

34550 Old Black Canyon Highway
Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

PO BOX

PO Box 715
Carefree, AZ 85377

Phone

Cave Creek: (480) 488-1145
Black Canyon City: (623) 374-9441

Fax

Cave Creek: (480) 488-9008
Black Canyon City: (623) 374-9434

Email

info@foothillsfoodbank.com

Website

Foothillsfoodbank.com

Facebook

facebook.com/FoothillsFoodBank

Twitter

222.twitter.com/foothillsfood

We are a
501C3 charitable organization.

Growing Need

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance hosts more than 70 no-contact drive-through food distributions each month. Throughout the last year of the pandemic and related economic hardship, three out of four recipients received emergency food boxes for the very first time.

The Foothills Food Bank is one of the Alliance locations and we have expanded our services because of the growing need. We are fighting hunger in Cave Creek, Carefree, Scottsdale, Anthem, north Phoenix, New River, Spring Valley, Cordes Lakes, Rio Verde, Mayer and Black Canyon City.

We are also serving a fast-growing demographic of people experiencing homelessness and families who live in their cars, as well as seniors in need. In February, the Food Bank provided shelf-sustainable food, baked goods and fresh produce to a mobile food distribution hosted by Coolwater Christian Church in Scottsdale. We are one of their ministry partners.

AARP Statistics

According to AARP, poverty rates are increasing among Americans over 65. More than 10 million adults 50 years of age and older are at risk of hunger every day, and one in 12 seniors do not know where their next meal will come from. Hunger is also a health issue – estimated annual health care costs of \$130.5 billion are believed to result from food insecurity. By 2025, hunger is predicted to double among seniors.

Only half of adults 50+ years of age reported that their Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are being met, while 51% reported at least one unmet SDOH, including:

- Facing food insecurity: 15%
- Having inadequate transportation: 12%
- Experiencing loneliness: 22%
- Having strained financial resources: 23%
- Experiencing mobility challenges: 11%.

As the U.S. population continues to age, policymakers and advocates have a vested interest in supporting programs and policies to help. Visit www.foothillsfoodbank.com to learn about our services to the seniors in our community.



Community Strong

How Do They Do It? – Mirabel Ladies' Fundraiser



As the number of those in need has grown dramatically during the pandemic, we are fortunate that our nearby Mirabel community has once again come together to support the Foothills Food Bank.

Beginning in 2013, the first Mirabel ladies' luncheon raised \$7,500. Last year's event brought in a total of \$110,000 and this year's non-traditional fundraiser garnered an astounding \$165,000! During the past nine years, the Mirabel community has collected over \$600,000 to benefit the Food Bank. How do they do it?

Step 1: Communicate need and create theme ("Keeping the Promise of Rainbows").

Step 2: Change approach (because of Covid). No costumes, party favors or luncheon this year. Instead, they created a video and impactful letter and sent many email reminders encouraging past donors to give at last year's level or more, and encouraging new members to be generous.

Step 3: Assemble sponsorship levels and create a silent auction and raffle. Donors earned raffle tickets based on the amount of their sponsorship and could view and bid on the beautiful silent auction items at the clubhouse. The auction packages were created with gift cards and other items that supported the local business community.

Step 4: Ask, ask, ask donors to share their good fortune!

A special thank you to the Mirabel Committee chairpersons Jill Muth and Cindy Zitney, and committee members April Barron, Belle Griffiths, Charyn Hoffman, Kathie McCabe, Linda Howes, Mary Kay Marvin, Sue Zechmann, Sunny Chico and Terry Krivoruchka who made this year's event possible.

This small community has very large hearts. We greatly appreciate their amazing generosity.

Shedding Light

Brilliance LED is a family-owned manufacturer of landscape lighting located in Carefree. For the past four years, the company and its employees have supported the Foothills Food Bank in a number of ways, including collecting donations for the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Reverse Food Advent, and the Adopt-A-Family holiday program. In 2020, the owners encouraged each employee to donate at least \$10 toward gift cards for Adopt-A-Family. The company matched their amount and donated substantially more for a total of \$1,525 in gift cards. They also participate in the annual Empty Bowls event. The owners purchase 20-25 bowls, each employee chooses their favorite, and they host a potluck lunch of soup, pasta or chili.

Brilliance LED and their employees are blessed to be able to assist those in need and everyone looks forward to continuing to support the Food Bank's mission.



Each Week at the Food Bank

This Little Piggy



Established in 2017 by Danielle and located near Cave Creek, Better Piggies Rescue is one of the only animal sanctuaries in Arizona dedicated to pigs. They pride themselves in their ability to safely rescue and rehabilitate pigs throughout the state through innovative technology and their partnerships with other livestock rescue and law enforcement agencies. They work with veterinarians and sanctuaries to ensure that all pot-bellied pigs receive proper care and offer education to owners and those interested in adopting a pig. Each week, Danielle picks up the Food Bank's expired produce and fruit to feed her pampered porcine population. These little piggies prefer bananas, but say no thank you to onions or avocados. Danielle supports the mission of the Food Bank and is a holiday Adopt-A-Family donor.

Better Piggies Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Contact them at betterpiggiesrescue@gmail.com to sponsor a pig, make a donation or find out about volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Profile



Meet Tim Schleisman, all-around great guy and warehouse volunteer. Tim volunteers three days each week and can be seen unloading and weighing in daily deliveries from our retail partners and loading trucks heading north to our Black Canyon City location, as well as sorting produce, loading crates with bonus bags and checking the temperature our many freezers and refrigerators to ensure safe storage of meat and fish. Each shift, warehouse volunteers move between 3,000 – 8,000 pounds of food per day and Tim is always in the middle of it. All he asks in return is an occasional raisin Danish.

Tim spent most of his career working for Target and moved from Minnesota to Arizona in 2015 to manage a Phoenix Super Target store. He was instrumental in working with Feeding America to create and drive a corporate store process for Target regarding perishable food donations to food banks, limiting food waste and promoting the importance of the safe transfer of food to the community.

As a past Certified Food Manager, Tim's experience has been valuable to the Food Bank regarding the necessary safety, cleaning and sanitation routines for preventing potential contamination. Now retired, volunteering provides Tim a sense of purpose, a physical workout, a chance to contribute to his community and reminds him daily to be grateful.

Serving Our Community

“Power Couple” and Board Member Profile



Chuck Weirauch has served on the Food Bank’s Board of Directors for nine years, serving at times as both Vice President and Board President and has been called back for service when needed. He and his lovely wife Veronica have seen a lot of improvements while volunteering for over 15 years at the Food Bank. They started at our prior locations three hours per month, two people per shift, then expanded to once a week and eventually to three times per week. Having hands-on experience has helped Chuck relate to clients, suggest process improvements, interact with the community and build a talented Board of Directors, taking advantage of members’ skills and networks of contacts. His goals for the Food Bank are steady growth, offering more resources and skill-building to clients, creating community partnerships and expanding our services to seniors.

Chuck was born in Wausau, Wisconsin and his midwestern work ethic shows. He retired from a career in information technology at National Cash Register Corporation focusing on software networking and professional technology management services.

Veronica Weirauch started volunteering one week before recruiting Chuck. She found out about the Food Bank from a church friend and has worked as a packer and now in the warehouse. She remembers the very small first Foothills Food Bank location and climbing over boxes, greeting clients, packing boxes, sorting and lifting crates and feeding families.

Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, this former school teacher and homemaker knows the importance of family and giving back to make a difference in the community. Together, they have raised four children and have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They and their children have been loyal donors and active volunteers. They support all of our events and awareness-builders sponsored by the Food Bank. Friend by friend, neighbor by neighbor, they educate people about the Food Bank and encourage others to support our efforts to fulfill the needs of our community. We are grateful for this Power Couple!

Donor Profile



Pete and Richelle Nassos, owners of Me4Kids, have been donors for many years. Their family-owned company offers the largest array of kid-friendly first aid products in the market today. They offer non-toxic, PBA-free, earth-friendly, latex-free products including boxed bandages, antibacterial wipes, first-aid kits, baby items, ice packs and more. Most of their products are proudly assembled by loving and caring individuals with disabilities. They make a monetary donation and donate products to the Food Bank monthly.

The Nassos family believes in being charitable and setting a good example for their children. Community involvement, being mindful of others who face challenges and not judging anyone keeps their family grounded. They have helped the homeless and other non-profits strengthening their neighborhoods and believe when you give, you receive. We are grateful for their long commitment to the mission and families we serve.

Grateful For Our Partners

Scouting for Food



The Boy Scouts of America have made a long-term commitment to service. In response to the knowledge that one out of every four young people in Arizona don't have enough food to feed their entire household, Boy Scout Troops 531, 824, Herbergers Scholars and Ridgeline Academy collected 5,537 pounds of food from our Wish List.

To ensure their success, they promoted their food drives on Facebook, offered pick-up service and provided a Covid-safe drop-off location. We thank these Scouts for their dedication to ending hunger in our community.

More Dedicated Supporters



Anthem Rotary Club and Daisy Mountain Fire & Medical collected 1,800 pounds of food and \$850 during their recent food drive. These partners continue to amaze us with their generosity and compassion.



Desert View Bible Church Day of Service and Paradise Valley Community College volunteers conducted the Food Bank's annual inventory and completed the project in record time. We thank them for their support!

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Farewell, Pam!



On January 15, 2021, the Foothills Food Bank building in Cave Creek was formally dedicated to Pam DiPietro, honoring her 18 years of leadership and outstanding service to members of our community in need. A farewell event was also hosted at The Buffalo Chip in March to bid adieu to Pam. We wish her well in retirement and know that her legacy of helping the community and the Food Bank will continue.

The President's Letter

The Food Bank Board and the new Executive Director have embarked on the process of developing a new 5-year strategy for the Food Bank and resource center. The strategy process will answer a number of questions, such as ... Are we reaching all the people in need in our communities? Are there clear needs in surrounding areas where we can help? Are there other services we can provide, such as mobile delivery or revised food packages and emergency financial support? How do we better support our senior clients and school children?

These among other questions will be answered and, in the coming months, you will hear more about the strategy and start to see pieces of it move from thought into action. Our vision of "fighting hunger, empowering neighbors in need and giving hope" isn't changing. The strategy is intended to help guide us to do this better.

Stay tuned!

- Chuck



Fighting Hunger Giving Hope

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Everyone needs a helping hand sometimes.

2021 Board of Directors

President – Charles Laurenti

Vice President – Lory Olsson

Secretary – Terry Dowd

Treasurer – Glenn Ford

Directors – Chuck Weirauch

Darrilyn Adams

Dirk Dijkerman

Jill Hieb

Joe McCabe

New Members – Myong Covert

Elaine Adrian

The Foothills Food Bank will be hosting a Shred-A-Thon Fundraiser.

WHO: Anyone that has papers to shred

WHEN: May 1, 2021

TIME: 9AM – 12PM

WHERE: Foothills Food Bank (public parking lot)

6038 E Hidden Valley Drive
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Suggested donations include:

Non-perishable foods and monetary donations.

For more information, email

julie@writz.com

Shop Smile at Amazon

If you shop at Amazon.com, you can help the Food Bank by choosing us as your Smile charity. It's easy, it costs you nothing and everything you buy sends 0.5% of the purchase price to us. In 2020, that added up to \$1,943 to support the Food Bank! To register, simply visit Smile. Amazon.com and select the Foothills Food Bank as your charitable organization. Then shop at Smile and continue giving at no cost to you!

Safety Alert

To keep everyone safe, clients and donors are not allowed in the Food Bank buildings until further notice. Masks must be worn when dropping off a donation outside and when picking up food. Thanks to everyone for your continued compliance!

2021 Charitable Donation Form

The Charitable Tax Credit helps the Foothills Food Bank continue its mission. Support the food bank and reduce your Arizona tax bill with a tax credit of up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples. This year the state is requiring donors to use a code when making a donation. The new **Qualified Charitable Organization Code for the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center on your Arizona income tax returns is 20514**. For more information, visit www.azdor.gov, click on Tax Credits, Contributions to QCOs and QFCOs or call **1-800-843-7196**. Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Amount Donated _____ Amount enclosed _____

(Please make check payable to **Foothills Food Bank**.)

Or

Please charge my VISA _____ MC _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Card number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code (3 digits on back of card) _____

Signature _____ Date _____